

3/28/02

## **FACT SHEET**

### **AMENDMENTS TO FINAL RULE REDUCING TOXIC AIR EMISSIONS FROM PORTLAND CEMENT MANUFACTURING FACILITIES**

#### **TODAY'S ACTION**

- ! The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is taking action to amend its rule to reduce toxic air pollutants from portland cement manufacturing plants. A settlement agreement reached between the American Portland Cement Alliance and EPA requires the Agency to publish a direct final rule (and parallel proposal) to amend the existing rule. The amendment includes changes in addition to those required by the settlement agreement. The revisions would make improvements to the implementation of the existing emission standards, primarily in clarifying applicability, testing, and monitoring requirements.
- ! Toxic air pollutants, also known as air toxics, are those pollutants known, or suspected, to cause cancer and other serious health problems. Air toxics are emitted during the portland cement manufacturing process.
- ! Today's amendments would not change the health and environmental effects of the rule, and they will not change the requirement that new and existing major sources control air toxics emissions.
- ! EPA is publishing this as both a direct final rule and proposed rule because the agency views the action as a noncontroversial amendment and does not anticipate adverse comments. However, if EPA receives significant adverse comments on these amendments, we will withdraw the section(s) of direct final rule which were adversely commented on and carefully evaluate the comments before taking any final action.

#### **BACKGROUND**

- ! Under the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 (the Act), EPA is required to regulate emissions of 188 air toxics listed in the Act. EPA included portland cement manufacturing in the list of industries that are major sources of air toxics. "Major" sources are those that emit 10 tons/year or more of a single listed air toxic or 25 tons/year or more of a combination of air toxics. For listed categories of major sources, the Act requires EPA to develop standards that require the application of stringent air pollution controls.
- ! EPA issued its final air toxics rule for portland cement manufacturing in June 1999. That rule

required the application of maximum achievable control technology for approximately 110 portland cement plants.

- ! Portland cement manufacturing is an energy intensive process in which cement is made by grinding and heating a mixture of raw materials such as limestone, clay, sand, and iron ore in a rotary kiln. The kiln is a large furnace that is fueled by coal, oil, gas, coke and/or various waste materials. The product (called clinker) from the kiln is cooled, ground, and then mixed with a small amount of gypsum to produce portland cement.
- ! The main source of air toxics emissions from a portland cement plant is the kiln. Emissions originate from the burning of fuels and heating of feed materials. Air toxics are also emitted from the grinding, cooling, and materials handling steps in the manufacturing process.
- ! The rule currently in place is expected to reduce air toxics emissions by 90 tons per year -- a 31 percent reduction from 1999 levels. It also reduces particulate matter and volatile organic compound emissions, which contribute to the formation of ground-level ozone (smog).

#### **WHAT THE AMENDMENTS WOULD DO**

- ! These amendments would make improvements to the implementation of the existing regulations by clarifying which emission sources are affected by the rule and by clarifying some of the testing and monitoring requirements. The compliance dates will be slightly adjusted for new and existing facilities affected by the rule. The emission limits will not be affected by these amendments.

#### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

- ! For further information about the proposal, contact Joseph Wood of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-5446.
- ! EPA's Office of Air and Radiation's home page on the Internet contains a wide range of information on the air toxics program, as well as many other air pollution programs and issues. The Office of Air and Radiation's home page address is: <http://www.epa.gov/oar/>.